

Washington Park Arboretum
Open House – April 5, 2006

On April 5, 2006 an Open House was held at the Graham Visitor Center at the Washington Park Arboretum to provide the public with information on 2 improvement projects at the Arboretum -the Holly Collection Relocation project, which is a part of the larger Pacific Connections (Madrona Terrace) project, and the Irrigation Mainlines project. Both projects are high priority projects identified in the Arboretum Master Plan's Implementation Plan.

Mark Johnson from Herrera Environmental, the consultant for the Irrigation Mainlines project, described the location of the proposed infrastructure project to add a loop system of irrigation mainlines along the eastern and western sides of the arboretum. The existing irrigation mainline through the central portion of the arboretum along Azalea Way will be retained. The western mainline will extend primarily along the existing western loop trail, while the eastern mainline will run primarily along the centerline of Arboretum Drive.

Iain Robertson with the University of Washington, who is completing the schematic design for the Holly Relocation project, described the site design for the collections project. The relocation site is located along the west side of Lake Washington Blvd between Interlake Blvd. and Boyer Ave. E. The schematic design includes a series of arc-shaped planting beds for the holly collection. Some grading and clearing of existing vegetation on the west side of the site will be necessary for the project.

Dr. David Mabberley, the director of the University Washington Botanic Gardens, provided an overview of the Pacific Connections (Madrona Terrace) project. The 12-acre site is located at Arboretum Drive and Lake Washington Blvd. on the hill across from the Japanese Garden. The project will add extensive plant exhibits representing areas from around the Pacific Rim, a lawn meadow area, and the construction of a small interpretive shelter and parking area.

The proposed plant collections for the Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections Garden are based on five geographic regions consisting of Cascadia (Pacific Northwest), Chile, China, New Zealand and Southeast Australia. Each collection is showcased through preview gardens, horticultural displays, and immersive forest types.

Following the project presentations, consultants and staff members for the UW, Seattle Parks and Arboretum Foundation, answered questions regarding the proposed improvement projects.